

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

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## NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE STUDY SUGGESTS OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AND CLEANUP ON NORTH SLOPE WILL COST BILLIONS

*Markey calls NAS study long overdue*

**Washington, D.C.** – Today Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce and Resources Committees, responded to the National Academies of Science's report Cumulative Environmental Effects of Oil and Gas Activities on Alaska's North Slope.

"I welcome the first comprehensive study of the impact of oil and gas development on the North Slope of Alaska. After 30 years and with pressure to increase development, it is a report whose time has come," said Rep. Markey. "The National Academies' report reveals what we have suspected all along, that oil and gas exploration and development have significant impact on wildlife and their habitat and is leaving a legacy of pollution on one of America's most pristine areas."

The NAS study found that "no funds have been set aside for dismantling and removing the estimated \$50 billion worth of existing infrastructure on the North Slope or for restoring the thousands of hectares of tundra affected by industrial activities" and that "total costs are likely to be billions of dollars." This reinforces the results of a June 2002 General Accounting Office's report that found oil company liability for removing existing oil and gas infrastructure and restoring the tundra on the North Slope of Alaska may run as high as \$6 billion, but existing industry bonds will cover only a fraction of that cleanup.

"Oil companies haven't set aside the money required to clean up their current infrastructure, let alone any potential expansion," concluded Rep. Markey. "It seems likely that the restoration of the North Slope, if it is restored at all, will fall on the taxpayer's shoulders."

The 2002 GAO report may be found at: [http://www.house.gov/markey/iss\\_arctic\\_rep020709.pdf](http://www.house.gov/markey/iss_arctic_rep020709.pdf)

Rep. Markey is the lead sponsor of H. R. 770, the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act, which would designate as wilderness almost 16 million acres of the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. H. R. 770, introduced on February 13, currently has 135 bipartisan co-sponsors.

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